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Houghton-le-Spring Urban District Council



**REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1956**

L. A. M. JOHNSTON,
B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

E. ROBINSON,
M.R.S.Inst., M.S.I.A.


HOUGHTON-LE-SPRING URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



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Public Health Department,

Houghton-le-Spring.

Mr. Chairman and Members,

I have pleasure in submitting herewith my twentieth Annual Report on the Vital Statistics, Sanitary Conditions and Health of the District, being for the year 1956. The report of the Chief Public Health Inspector for that year is included therein. Sincere apologies must be tendered for the delay in the issue of this report.

Birth Rate

This, at 17.31, is higher than in the preceding year and also is higher than for England and Wales which was 15.7.

Death Rate

At 9.86 per 1,000 population this is slightly lower than in 1955 and compares favourably with 11.7 for England and Wales.

Causes of Death

Heart Disease and Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System (the latter mainly cerebral haemorrhage) accounted for nearly half the total number of diseases in 1956 and coronary thrombosis, which is included, for almost one eighth. These diseases are taking a greater toll through the country each year but it is some small comfort to know that means of treatment is also improving. Methods of prevention seem much more difficult to attain.

Cancer - there were 58 deaths from this cause in 1956. This problem is another which has not yet been solved but a few forms, when diagnosed early, before the disease has spread to other organs, can now be cured by drugs.

Infectious Diseases

It is satisfactory to note that during 1956 166 cases of infectious diseases (including all forms of tuberculosis) were notified, a decrease of 501 compared with the number of cases for 1955.

Measles and Whooping Cough. These two diseases accounted for the tremendous drop in the number of cases of infectious diseases notified as in 1956 there were 35 cases of measles and 84 of whooping cough as against 450 cases of measles and 178 of whooping cough in 1955.

Tuberculosis. 23 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and 4 of non-pulmonary were notified during the year. It is rather perturbing to note that 8 of the pulmonary cases were under twenty years of age. I am firmly of the opinion that protection should be given to those about to leave school who, setting out in a world of new contacts, are most susceptible to be exposed to infection. This can be done by what is known as BCG vaccination and it is a service which the County Council as the Local Health Authority will make available on request and which is being provided in several areas in the County. I should have liked to have recommended this to you in 1956 but felt that it was impracticable to organise and carry out such a scheme whilst inaugurating the Polio Vaccination Scheme. I would certainly recommend consideration at an early date once the initial bulk of polio vaccinations have been completed.

Early diagnosis of tuberculosis and the new drugs which have been brought into use since the end of the war have resulted in many complete and early cures - in some cases without the necessity of hospital treatment - in the remainder considerably reducing the stay in hospital. One must feel pleasure in seeing that hospitals for tuberculosis are now being closed for lack of patients and that waiting lists for admission to sanatoria almost cease to exist.

Scarlet Fever. This disease now bears no semblance to the severe type which was fairly prevalent in the early part of the century and hospitalisation is no longer considered necessary unless in very exceptional circumstances. Quarantine of school children contacts is being dropped in most areas.

Diphtheria. There were no cases of diphtheria in 1956. The present generation of young parents have no first hand knowledge of this dread disease and must be continuously reminded of the importance of immunisation. Some are having their children immunised by their family doctors who are able to combine this with preventive treatment against whooping cough. Like some other Health Authorities in the country Durham County Council did not offer this combined protection to the children who were immunised at the Child Welfare Centres during 1956.

Anterior Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis)

One case was notified in 1956 which, fortunately, was not fatal.

Vaccination to protect children against poliomyelitis was commenced in May 1956 and closed down at the end of June. A limited number were treated in the last two months of the year but unfortunately the vaccine was only available in quantities quite inadequate to meet the demand. This was chiefly due to the extreme care taken to ascertain that the material used was absolutely safe.

Housing

The Council continue to make good progress with the implementation of the Five Year Slum Clearance Programme, 142 houses being erected during the year, 71 of these at Hindson Crescent South and 65 at Hindson Crescent North, whilst at the 31st December, 1956, a further 191 were in course of erection.

A number of pre-war houses were also modernized.

Welfare of the Aged

The local Committee continues to function and, apart from the kindly interest in the 9 Over-60 Clubs which are functioning in the district and which are self-supporting, the main service of the Committee has been to provide a chiropody service for old people. Between 600 and 700 treatments were given during the year.

The Committee are extremely grateful to the Council for their donation which enables them, along with considerable effort on the Committee's part, to provide this service at a cost which any old person can afford.

The inter-Club Games Competition is held annually but is not supported by all Clubs and it has aroused a considerable amount of interest, especially amongst the male Club members.

The layout of this report has been altered from previous years and the comparative tables will all be found together, hereafter. Difficulty in getting production by the printer and a desire for economy has led to its being duplicated in the office and I trust the result will not be unpleasing.

I gladly take the opportunity once again to tender my thanks to Councillors and my colleagues on the staff for the assistance so readily given me whenever required.

L.A.M. JOHNSTON.

Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1956

Members of the Health Committee, 1956.

Chairman :- Councr. J. McKinley, 6 Fenton Tce., New Herrington.

Members :

Houghton Ward

Councr. J.A. Hall, 35 Windsor Cres., Houghton-le-Spring.

" G. Henderson, 21 Balmoral Cres., "

Alderman H. Hodgson, 2 Stevenson St., "

Councr. Mrs. E. McGovern, 4 Briar Av., "

" S. Newton, 11 Burns Av., South, "

" W. Shearer, 9 Dickens St., "

" W.E. Towers, 28 Sancroft Drive, "

" T.W. Urwin, 54 Queensway, "

Penshaw Ward

Councr. Mrs. V. Barker, 12 Harrow Cres., Shiney Row.

" T.R. Hunt, 18 Hindson Cres., South, " "

" J. Lowery, 17 Travers St., New Herrington.

" J. Mawston, 10 Hindson Cres., North, Shiney Row.

" W.J. McKinley, 10 Wensleydale Av., Penshaw.

" D. Metcalfe, 2 Oxford Tce., Shiney Row.

" I.S. Oliver, 64 Wensleydale Av., Penshaw.

Fence Houses Ward

Councr. Mrs. P. Alderson, 78 Avenue Vivian, Fence Houses.

" D. Cockburn, 7 Station Av. N., " "

" A. Garland, North House, " "

" T. Patterson, 23 Station Av. N., " "

Herrington Ward

Councr. J. Coffey, 51 Railway Tce., New Herrington.

" C. Mitchison, 21 Railway Tce., New Herrington.

Newbottle Ward

Councr. B.A. Bircham, 10 Chapel Row, Philadelphia.
" L.R. Holmes, 8 Green Av., "
" W.E. Marshall, 14 Hazel Tce., Newbottle.
" D. Telford, 5 West View, Philadelphia.

Co-opted Members

Mrs. E. Geddes, 143 Burn Park Rd., Houghton-le-Spring.
Mrs. S. Richardson, 45 Lanton St., New Herrington.

Public Health Officers and Staff of the Authority.

The Staff consists of :-

Medical Officer of Health : Dr. L.A.M. Johnston,
B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (St. Andrew's)
Conjoint appointment with Hetton and Washington Urban District
Councils and Assistant Medical Officer for Durham County Council.

Senior Public Health Inspector
and Cleansing Superintendent.

E. Robinson - Wholetime - Holds
Certificate of the Royal Sanitary
Institute and Certificate for the
Inspection of Meat and Other Foods.
Also acts as Factory and Workshops
Inspector and Inspector under the
Shops Act and Petroleum Acts.
Associate Member of Institute of
Public Cleansing.

Deputy Senior Public Health
Inspector.

N. Pounder - Wholetime - Holds
Certificate of the Royal Sanitary
Institute and Certificate for the
Inspection of Meat and Other Foods.

Assistant Public Health
Inspector.

W. Snowball - Wholetime - Holds
Certificate of the Royal Sanitary
Institute and Certificate for the
Inspection of Meat and Other Foods.

Surveyor and Engineer.

A. Veitch - Wholetime - Fellow of
Surveyor's Institute and a Member
of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

Chief Clerk.

A. Armstrong.

Shorthand Typist.

Miss J. Brown.

Assistant Clerk.

Mrs. A. Smith. (25% Health, 75% Fuel

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in acres - 5,026 acres.

Registrar General's Estimate of resident population -
mid year 1956 - 31,020.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1956) according to
Rate Books - 9,798.

Rateable Value - £216,066.

Sum represented by a penny rate - £828 : 2s : 1d.

Health Services administered by the County Council.

The County Council are the Local Health Authority under the National Health Service Act and are responsible for the following services :-

Ambulance.

Home Nursing.

Vaccination - Smallpox and
Poliomyelitis.

Immunisation against Diphtheria.

Welfare of the Aged.

Domestic Helps.

Health Visitors.

Child Welfare & Maternity Services

School Medical Services.

Care of the Blind and certain
other handicapped persons.

The County Council are also responsible for the administration of Part 111 of the National Insurance Act, 1948.

FOOD AND DRUGS INSPECTORS are also appointed by and work under the direction of the County Council.

The Ministry of Agriculture are responsible for the carrying out of the routine examination of the cow population throughout the County in order to maintain and raise the standard of the health of the said cows, this work being carried out by their own Veterinary Inspectors.

VITAL STATISTICS

Births and Birth Rate.

The nett number of live births (as corrected by the Registrar General for the outward and inward transfers) during 1956 was 537 compared with 512 for 1955.

Sex and legitimacy are shown thus :-

		Total	Male	Female	
Live) Legitimate		527	269	258	} Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated population 17.31
Births) Illegitimate		10	5	5	

The Registrar-General states the Birth Rate per 1,000 population in England and Wales (live births) was 15.7 for 1956.

Year	Total Live Births	Males	Females	Rate per 1,000 population	Excess Births over Deaths
1947	642	324	318	22.24	339
1948	635	342	293	21.63	313
1949	577	288	289	19.32	229
1950	612	335	227	20.11	266
1951	608	286	322	19.87	268
1952	579	300	279	12.21	249
1953	590	297	293	19.10	253
1954	544	276	268	17.57	180
1955	512	273	239	16.54	203
1956	537	274	263	17.31	231

Still Births - During 1956 there were 11 still births in the district.

		Total	Males	Females	
Still) Legitimate		11	7	4	} giving a rate of 17.6 per 1,000 total (live and still births) births.
Births) Illegitimate		-	-	-	

Death and Death Rate.

The Registrar-General reports that during 1956 306 persons normally residing in the Urban Area died, being 174 males and 132 females.

The death rate was, therefore, 9.86 per 1,000 population. This compares with 9.98 for 1955.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

(Heading 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's short list)
There were no deaths among women from puerperal sepsis or from other puerperal causes.

Comparison between Houghton-le-Spring and England and Wales.

	<u>Houghton-le-Spring.</u>	<u>England & Wales.</u>
Death Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births from puerperal sepsis.	0.00	0.46
Death Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births from other puerperal causes.	0.00	0.10

Death Rate of Infants under One Year.

15 children died during 1956 before attaining the age of 1 year, being 8 legitimate males and 7 legitimate females, equivalent to an Infantile Mortality Rate of 27.93 (per 1,000 live births).

During 1955 12 children died before attaining the age of one year.

Death rate of infants under one year of age according to the total number of live births and legitimacy for the years 1947 - 1956.

Year	All Infants per 1,000 live births.	Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births.	Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegiti- mate live births.
1947	38.94	37.33	76.92
1948	50.39	50.00	71.43
1949	53.91	53.47	62.5
1950	39.21	38.14	111.11
1951	29.60	27.96	111.11
1952	41.45	41.45	00.00
1953	27.12	27.12	00.00
1954	33.08	31.26	125.00
1955	23.43	21.46	100.00
1956	27.93	27.93	00.00

Of the 15 infants who died under one year of age, the cause of death was attributed to Prematurity in 3 cases, Atelectasis in 2 cases, Pneumonia in 2 cases and Other Causes 8 cases.

	Nett Live Births - Legitimate		Illegitimate		
	Males	Females	Males	Females	
Corrected as per Registrar-General	269	258	5	5	= 537
Nett Deaths	8	7			= 15

DISTRIBUTION OF DEATHS AND AGE INCIDENCE IN THE VARIOUS WARDS

Ward	Under 1 yr.		1-5 yrs		5-15 yrs		15-25 yrs		25-45 yrs		45-65 yrs		65-75 yrs		75 yrs & over		Total	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Ho'ton	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	2	15	13	20	11	28	11	69	40
Penshaw	4	1	-	-	1	-	2	1	4	2	11	6	7	19	17	17	46	46
N'b'le	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	6	3	4	2	10	9	23	14
F/Ho.	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	2	1	6	7	3	5	7	5	19	20
Herr.	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	5	2	4	7	-	17	12
	8	7	-	1	1	-	4	2	10	5	46	34	36	41	69	42	174	132

During 1956 there was 1 death from "Infantile" diarrhoea
(under 2 years of age)

Causes of Death in Houghton-le-Spring Urban District during 1956

<u>Cause of Death</u>		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	2	1
2.	Tuberculosis, other	-	-
3.	Syphilitic disease	-	-
4.	Diphtheria	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough	-	-
6.	Meningococcal Infections	-	-
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
8.	Measles	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasite diseases	1	-
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	6	5
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	15	1
12.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	4
13.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	1	5

Causes of Death in Houghton-le-Spring Urban District during 1956 (cont'd)

<u>Cause of Death</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
14. Other Malignant and lymphatic neoplasm	10	15
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	3	-
16. Diabetes	2	2
17. Vascular lesions of nervous systems	29	23
18. Coronary disease, angina	22	22
19. Hypertension with heart disease	2	-
20. Other heart disease	14	18
21. Other circulatory disease	3	4
22. Influenza	-	1
23. Pneumonia	5	5
24. Bronchitis	11	1
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	4	2
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	3	2
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	-
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	1	-
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	6	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	1	3
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	17	14
33. Motor Vehicle accidents	5	1
34. All other accidents	8	4
35. Suicide	2	1
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-
	<hr/>	
	All Causes	174 132
	<hr/>	

Certain Specified Causes of Death :

(a) TUBERCULOSIS :

During 1956 there were 3 deaths, equivalent to a rate of 1,000 population of 0.09 from pulmonary tuberculosis. There were no deaths from Non-Pulmonary form.

(b) HEART DISEASE :

Heart disease was, as in former years, the chief cause of death throughout the area, 130 persons, being 67 males, and 63 females, were certified to have died from heart disease. This is equivalent to 42.48% of the total deaths and a mortality rate of 4.19 per 1,000 population.

Comparative Table :-

Year	Total Deaths All Causes	Deaths due to Heart Disease			Death rate per 1,000 population		% total Deaths due to Heart Disease
		Total	M.	F.	All Causes	Heart Disease	
1947	303	87	45	42	10.49	3.01	28.71
1948	323	110	60	50	11.00	3.61	34.05
1949	348	106	56	50	11.70	3.56	30.40
1950	346	107	54	53	11.4	3.52	30.92
1951	340	97	48	49	11.11	3.17	28.53
1952	348	104	54	50	11.21	3.36	29.88
1953	337	103	44	59	10.90	3.33	30.56
1954	364	98	49	49	11.76	3.16	26.49
1955	309	90	56	34	9.98	2.96	29.12
1956	306	130	67	63	9.86	4.19	42.48

(c) CANCER :

58 deaths - being 28 males and 30 females - were due to cancer. This is equivalent to a mortality rate of 1.87 per 1,000 population or 18.9 percent of the total deaths. This compares with a death rate for England and Wales of 2.07.

Comparative table of deaths due to cancer for the years 1947-1956.

	<u>Number of Deaths</u>			<u>Mortality Rate per 1,000 population.</u>
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	
1947	23	18	41	1.42
1948	20	21	41	1.39
1949	27	23	50	1.68
1950	28	18	46	1.51
1951	44	15	59	1.89
1952	30	24	54	1.74
1953	31	28	59	1.91
1954	34	24	58	1.87
1955	26	22	48	1.55
1956	28	30	58	1.87

The following shows the sites of lesion, sex and age distribution of those who have died during 1956 from cancer as compiled from local records

<u>Site</u>	<u>Males - Ages</u>	<u>Females - Ages</u>
Lungs	47, 54, 55, 57, 59, 59, 64, 66, 72, 74	63
Uterus		46, 50, 57, 68.
Colon	53, 74, 77.	64, 66, 76.
Stomach	57, 63, 72, 76, 77, 81.	55, 61, 61, 67, 76.
Breast	56.	51, 56, 72, 74, 74.
Oesophagus	55, 64, 68.	61, 69, 72, 76.
Rectum	63, 80.	79, 80.
Prostate Gland	40, 79, 82.	
Bowel		65, 80.
Pelvis		74
Throat		58, 72.
Tongue		79.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

During 1956 some 166 cases of infectious disease (including all forms of Tuberculosis) were notified, a decrease of 501 compared with the number of cases during 1955.

Scarlet Fever : 10 cases were notified as against 3 in 1955 and of these 1 was admitted to hospital.

The case incidence was 0.32 per 1,000 population.

Diphtheria : There were no cases of diphtheria in the district during 1956 as in 1955. There were no deaths from this cause in 1956. Anti-toxin is available during office hours at the Public Health Department, Council Offices, Broadway, Houghton.

The incidence of diphtheria in the district was 0.00 per 1,000 population.

Immunisation : During 1956, 253 children under 5 years of age and 5 between the ages of 5 and 15 years were immunised and 79 were given a reinforcing injection.

Influenza : 1 death was ascribed to Influenza during 1956 as against 4 in 1955 and 7 in 1954.

There were 10 deaths as being ascribed to pneumonia (some influenza pneumonia) as against 7 in 1955 while the number of cases of pneumonia notified were 8 as against 8 in 1955 and 9 in 1954.

Measles, Whooping Cough and Erysipelas : In 1956 there were 35 cases of Measles and 84 cases of Whooping Cough as against 450 measles and 178 cases of whooping cough in 1955.

There were no deaths from measles or whooping cough during the year.

No cases of Erysipelas were notified during 1956 as against 1 case in 1955.

Infantile Paralysis : During 1956 1 case of Infantile Paralysis was notified in the area.

School Notification of Disease : No fresh cases of any notifiable diseases were notified from the schools.

Diphtheria Immunisation and Vaccination

The following table shows the number of children immunised during the four quarters of 1956, also the number of re-inforcing injections for which records were received.

	<u>Under 5</u>	<u>5-14</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Re-inforcement</u>
1st Quarter	56	-	56	32
2nd "	80	3	83	18
3rd "	30	1	31	5
4th "	87	1	88	24
	253	5	258	79

Vaccination, which is no longer compulsory, has been the responsibility of the County Council since 1930 through the "Public Vaccinators". Previous to the 5th July, 1948, there was no exact record of the work done.

The following table shows the number of persons vaccinated and re-vaccinated, for which records were received, during the four quarters of 1956.

1956	VACCINATED					REVACCINATED				
	Under 1 yrs.	1-4	5-14	15 yrs & over	Total	Under 1 yrs.	1-4	5-14	15 yrs & over	Total
1st Qr.	15	2	-	4	21	-	1	-	3	4
2nd "	9	-	1	8	18	-	-	-	2	2
3rd "	27	1	1	5	34	-	-	1	3	4
4th "	33	2	-	6	41	-	-	1	4	5
	84	5	2	23	114	-	1	2	12	15

Tuberculosis

There has been no action taken during 1956 under the Public Health Act (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 (relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade), or Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis).

The following table shows the notifications of Tuberculosis, pulmonary and non-pulmonary, according to sex, for the period 1937-56.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Pulmonary</u>			<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>		
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
1937.	10	8	18	8	6	14
1938.	5	8	13	11	5	16
1939.	12	10	22	4	8	12
1940.	4	7	11	11	13	24
1941.	3	10	13	5	6	11
1942.	11	16	27	11	9	20
1943.	12	7	19	11	4	15
1944.	22	17	39	21	15	36
1945.	14	9	23	22	18	40
1946.	15	13	28	9	9	18
1947.	14	10	24	3	4	7
1948.	12	21	33	5	2	7
1949.	14	21	35	2	3	5
1950.	11	18	29	3	3	6
1951.	18	29	47	3	5	8
1952.	9	11	20	2	2	4
1953.	6	10	16	-	-	-
1954.	11	15	26	1	1	2
1955.	10	10	20	1	-	1
1956.	12	11	23	3	1	4

The following table shows the various age-period for males and females, at which new cases were notified and when death occurred.

Age Period	New Cases		Deaths	
	Pulmonary	Non Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non Pulmonary
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-
1 year	2	2	-	-
5 years	2	-	-	-
15 years	4	-	-	-
25 years	2	-	-	-
35 years	5	-	1	-
45 years	2	-	1	-
55 years	4	2	1	-
65 and upwards	2	-	-	-
	23	4	3	-

The figures in the death column are from locally compiled records.

Occupation : Of those suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis 2 were Miners, 4 were housewives, 2 were under school age, 1 unemployed, 1 Apprentice Moulder, 1 retired Miner, 1 retired Line Inspector, 1 Post Office Engineer, 1 Wagon Wright, 2 were of school age, 1 School Master, 2 Nurses, 2 were Factory Workers, 1 Apprentice Hairdresser and 1 occupation unknown.

Notification of Tuberculosis : This seems to have been greatly improved within the past few years. Practitioners realize it is a duty and the patients or friends have learnt that notification is actually to help them since the sooner the County authorities know, the sooner the sooner they can help in treatment.

Examination of Sputa : Sputa specimens are examined in the Public Health Laboratory, Newcastle, the County Council paying the charge therefor.

Housing and Tuberculosis : There is still evidence that a number of cases of tuberculosis are housed in poor conditions and that only too frequently sufferers from the pulmonary type are not occupying their own bedroom or even bed. It is important for the sake of all the other inmates of the house as well as for the improvement of the patient's condition that every endeavour should be made to provide the patient with his or her own bed - unshared by any - better still, a room solely for the use of the patient. I am glad to know that the Houghton-le-Spring Urban District Council has been sympathetic in consideration of such families who are applicants for Council houses but even then much remains to be done by these families to use the accommodation to the best advantage.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS

	FAECES Positive				SWABS (THROAT, NASAL & EAR) Positive			SPUTUM	
	No. of Specimens	Enteric	Dysentery	Organisms	No. of Specimens Diphtheria (Culture)	Diphtheria (Virulence)	Organisms	No. of Specimens	Tuberculosis
1st Qts	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2nd Qtr	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3rd Qtr	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4th Qtr	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Cases of Infectious Diseases during 1956 - Showing Age, Incidence
Admission to Hospital and Case Rates

Notifiable Disease	Number of Cases Notified												Total No		
	At Ages - Years												Ho'ton	Penshaw	Newbottle
	Under	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and over	Total		
Scarlet Fever	-	-	1	1	1	5	1	1	-	-	-	-	10	4	1
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	3	2	2	-	8	3	-
Pulmonary) Male	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis) Female	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	3	1	5	1	12	4	2	2
Non Pulmonary) Male	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	4	1	-	-	11	9	-	-
Tuberculosis) Female	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	1	1	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Small Pox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	-	4	2	7	8	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	10	10	14	16	13	20	-	-	1	-	-	-	35	3	24
Para Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	84	12	12
Acute Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Polio Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	10	15	17	26	24	40	3	5	12	4	9	1	166	37	25

Mass Radiography.

During two periods, 2nd January to 6th January and 18th September to 30th September, 1956, a mass radiography survey was carried out in the urban area, in which a total of 2,398 persons, being 1,290 males and 1,108 females, were X-rayed. Of this figure 162 were recalled for a large film X-ray and only 3 of this number failed to attend.

From statistics rendered it was noted that 36 persons, 29 males and 7 females were suffering from Non-Tuberculosis conditions and 13 persons, being 5 males and 8 females, suspected Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

Water Supply

(1) : The water supply in the Urban District was satisfactory generally both in quality and quantity, but numerous complaints of dirty water, caused by deposits from the mains, were made. This is being rectified by monthly flushing out of the mains at selected points.

(2) Bacteriological examinations were made monthly and the results were very satisfactory. Samples were taken from both sources of supply. Houghton Colliery Standage Tank and the intake at the reservoir from the Sunderland and South Shields Water Company's bulk supply. Samples were also taken of the mixed water, as supplied to the town.

(3) and (4). The water is not liable to plumbo-solvent action and no counter measures were taken.

(5) Water is supplied to all houses throughout the area. There are no stand pipes in use.

Housing

The number of houses in course of erection on the 31st December, 1956, was as follows :-

Council Houses...	...	...	191
Private Houses...	...	...	23

Closet Accommodation

The number of each type of convenience at the end of 1956 was as follows :-

Water Closets...	...	...	9,900
Ash Closets.....	...	...	20
Privy Middens...	...	...	2

Refuse Collection and Disposal

New properties are being built at the rate of 200 per year and the number of premises from which refuse was collected was 9,922, the district consisting of a driver and two fillers for K.B. and for the C.K.3 a driver and two fillers plus extra help for part of the time.

No fewer than 670 working days were lost through sickness and other causes, due in some cases to the age of the men (94% all over 50 yrs) and to other physical conditions.

Of the total staff of 33, 8 left the Council during the year - competition in other works being too high for this type of work.

Despite this loss of time through sickness, the staff has been able to maintain regular collections of house and trade refuse and salvage.

Twice weekly collections have been made for 70% of premises throughout the district and 30% have a once weekly collection

The Foreman, along with other duties, is responsible for the collection of salvage from shops and factories.

The Chamber of Trade co-operate with the Council in the collection of salvage from their members' premises. All saleable paper and hardboard is properly sorted and kept free from floor sweepings.

Some shop employees still unthinkingly mix floor sweepings, broken glass and crockery with the waste paper collections and this often results in cut fingers for the paper baling operative.

Increased demands on the refuse collection service, coupled with rising costs of materials, maintenance and wages make it difficult to keep the cost of this essential service within reasonable limits.

Present day house refuse is tending to become more bulk than solid refuse, and if residents could burn the combustible refuse this would relieve both costs and labour.

The present estimated cost is 43/2 per house per annum. In 1950 the estimated cost was 27/6d per house, and pre-war it was 15/- per house.

The lay-out of modern housing estates makes the task of the refuse collector much heavier than in pre-war housing estates. Often the loader has to travel more than 100 yards for the collection of the bin. This naturally increases the cost of refuse collection.

Sites for tipping (controlled or otherwise) are becoming increasingly difficult to obtain in this area.

All potential sites are now comparatively close to building schemes and development. Land reclamation is very desirable and increases otherwise-lost acreage for agriculture.

The time is rapidly nearing when tipping space outside the area will have to be found.

Sedgeleth tip has been extended for the Houghton and Fence Houses districts but this extension only covers a small area affected by subsidence and will probably be completely filled in during next year.

The main tip at Coxgreen is being filled in at an alarming rate.

Summary of work by the Sanitary Inspector's Department
during the year 1956.

	No. of Inspections.	No. of Informal Notices Served	No. of Formal Notices Served	Defects remedied after Notice	Legal Proceedings and General Remarks
Housing :					
Public Health and Housing Acts.	798	97	-	94	
Overcrowding.	107	-	-	-	Housing Points Scheme
Sanitary Conveniences :					
Insufficient	12	12	-	12	ditto
Defective	-	-	-	-	
Drainage :	61	59	-	59	
Water Supply :	54	39	-	39	
Food Premises :	30	10	-	10	
Shops Act :	462	-	-	-	
Dairies :	19	-	-	-	
Slaughter Houses :					
Public.	-	-	-	-	
Private.	1900	-	-	-	

Summary of work by the Sanitary Inspector's Department
during the year 1956. (cont'd)

	No. of Inspection- tions.	No. of Informal Notices Served	No. of Formal Notices Served	Defects remedied after Notice	Legal Proceedings and General Remarks
Tents, Van, etc.	44	5	-	5	
Offensive Trades :	12	-	-	-	
Factories & Worksops :	22	-	-	-	
Keeping of Animals :	16	16	-	16	
Insanitary Ash-pits and Receptacles :	25	25	-	25	
Offensive Accumulations :	42	-	-	42	Verbal
Smoke Nuisances :	1	1	-	1	
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 :	225	-	-	225	After action by Health Dept.
Licensed Premises :	41	7	-	7	
Schools :	14	-	-	-	
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits :	42	22	-	22	
	4827	293	4	557	

Ashpit-privies converted into Water-closets	-
Ash-closets converted into Water-closets	1
Total number of Water-closets in District	9900
do Ash-closets do	20
do Ashpit-privies do	2

ii <u>Water, Food and Drugs</u>	Number	Remarks
<p>Samples of Water taken for Analysis</p> <p>Samples of Water condemned as unfit for use</p> <p>Seizures of Unwholesome Food</p> <p>Convictions for exposing or selling unwholesome food.</p> <p>Samples of Food and Drugs taken for Analysis.</p> <p>Samples found adulterated.</p>	<p>31</p> <p>3 ton 11 cwt</p> <p>-</p> <p>53 1</p>	<p>Chiefly meat, Private Slaughterhouses.</p>
<p>iii <u>Precautions against Infectious Disease</u></p> <p>Lots of Infectious Bedding stoved or destroyed.</p> <p>Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease.</p> <p>Schools disinfected after Infectious Disease</p> <p>Prosecutions for exposure of infected persons or things</p> <p>Convictions for exposure of infected persons or things.</p>	<p>25</p> <p>25</p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p>	
<p>iv <u>General</u></p> <p>Number of New Houses erected during year</p> <p>Number of New Houses occupied during year</p> <p>Ash-pit privies converted into Ash-closets</p> <p>Ash-pit privies converted into Water-closets</p> <p>Ash-closets converted into Water-closets.</p> <p>Total no. of Water-closets in districts</p>	<p>176</p> <p>176</p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p>1</p> <p>9900</p>	<p>Council 143 Private 34</p>

iv General. (cont'd)

	Number	Remarks
Total number of Ash-closets in district	20	
Total number of Ash-pit privies in district	2	

This Council has, during the past twelve months, supplied 82 bins in default. These are a good quality galvanised ash bin.

Salvage of Waste Materials :

The salvage of waste paper and cardboard was well maintained and disposed of under contract to Messrs. J. Ainsworth & Co. (Bolton) Ltd., 88 tons of baled paper and cardboard was sent to these mills, the sum realized being £683 as against £643 in 1955, an increase of £40. 15 tons of scrap tins were collected from the scavenging tips, realizing £41, an increase of £18 from prior year.

Housing Repairs :

The high cost of labour and materials still retard the work of repairs and local contractors are loth to estimate for works specified under the Housing Acts. In other cases the main cause underlying the disrepair of much privately owned property is the resultant small income derived from the rents and so many small owners who previously maintained their property well, find themselves financially unable to do so.

Camping Sites :

This area is in the centre of the coal mining industry and there are no sites used for camping or licensed caravan sites.

Swimming Baths and Pools :

There are no publicly or privately owned swimming baths or pools in the district.

Schools :

The sanitary condition of the schools was found to be generally satisfactory. Two of the older types need to be replanned when circumstances permit.

Cinemas, Public Houses, and Halls :

There are six cinemas in the district : Fence Houses, 1; Houghton, 3; Herrington Burn, 1; New Penshaw, 1. These and other places of public entertainment were inspected during the year with respect to sanitary arrangements and were generally found to be satisfactory.

All licensed premises are visited throughout the area and are generally found to be in a clean and hygienic condition.

Eradication of the Bed Bug :

The work is supervised by the Sanitary Inspectors in co-operation with either tenants or owner. Periodical inspections are made to ensure that the tenants carry out the Inspector's instructions as much depends on the efforts of the tenants themselves.

	Infested	Disinfested
Number of Council Houses	3	3
Number of other houses	-	-

Prevention of Damage by Pests - Pests Act, 1949.

98 cases of rat, mouse and other infestations were reported and dealt with during the year.

No matter how minor the infestation may be, investigations are carried out by the Inspectors; this in some cases may appear to be a waste of time but the results are often more than satisfactory to the person concerned.

A Rodent operative was appointed for part-time duties and this has relieved your Inspectors of some of the actual disinfestation of premises.

Scavenging disposal tips are regularly treated in the area.

HOUSING CONDITIONS

Housing Statistics for the Year 1956.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :
 - (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)..... 785
 - (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose..... 1,032
 - (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Acts..... 292
 - (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose..... 315
 - (3) No. of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 127
 - (4) No. of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation..... 91
2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of formal Notices.

No. of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers..... 165
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :
 - A. Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :
 - (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs..... -
 - (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :
 - (a) By owners..... -
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners..... -
 - B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts :
 - (1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied..... -
 - (2) No. of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices..... -
 - (a) By owners..... -
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners..... -

C. Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936, and section 10 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953

- | | |
|---|----|
| (1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made..... | 47 |
| (2) No. of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders..... | 40 |

D. Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

- | | |
|--|---|
| (1) No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made..... | 1 |
| (2) No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit..... | - |
| By Owners..... | - |

Housing Improvements Act, 1949

	No. of separate houses.
(a) Applications submitted to Local Authority	24
(b) Applications rejected by Local Authority	-
(c) Total No. of applications approved since the inception of scheme	123

Clean Air Act, 1906.

This demands a large amount of inspection work in order that this very important Act can be worked.

Housing :

SITE	No. of Houses erected prior 1956.	No. of Houses erected during 1956.		No. of Houses in course of erection at 31.12.56.	TOTAL
		Trad.	Perm.		
Newtown	82	-	-	-	82
North Rectory	60	-	-	-	60
Villa No. 1	-	-	-	-	-
and 2.	246	-	-	-	246
Chilton Moor	168	-	-	-	168
Colliery Row	64	-	-	-	64
Hetton Road	308	-	-	6	314
Hall Lane	65	-	-	-	65
Racecourse	618	2	-	-	620
Grange Estate	454	4	-	-	458
Sedgeclotch	20	-	-	-	20
Hillside	72	-	-	-	72
Homelands	184	-	-	-	184
St. Aidans	138	-	-	-	138
Park Estate	268	-	-	-	268
Station Road	56	-	-	-	56
Chandler Row	9	-	-	-	9
Chester Road	276	-	-	-	276
Penshaw Hill	96	-	-	-	96
New Penshaw	40	-	-	-	40
Barnwell	612	-	-	-	612
Success	46	-	-	-	46
Cellar Hill	248	-	-	-	248
Hindson Cres. S.	38	71	-	1	110
Hindson Cres. N.	-	65	-	103	168
Burnside	-	-	-	81	81
	4168	142		191	4501

142 houses were completed by direct labour, 34 were built by private enterprise. The types and location of the houses are shown on the above table.

Inspection and Supervision of Food

Milk Supplies :

During the year 80 samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination and generally were found satisfactory.

Slaughter Houses :

Slaughtering accommodation in the area is quite inadequate and a good standard of hygiene in these premises is very difficult to maintain.

Slaughtering is carried out in eight private slaughterhouses in the Urban District. Lack of slaughtering facilities makes it necessary in some cases for slaughtering to take place practically six days a week and, in some cases, seven days, but your Inspectors have maintained 100% inspection of animals slaughtered for food.

Meat and Food inspection is a function of the Health Department that should not be neglected and your Inspectors responsible for this important duty have to carry out this work outside normal office hours, often in the late evenings, Sundays and even Bank Holidays. Sunday and Bank Holiday work is objectionable but is unavoidable if the delay of the distribution of the meat is to be prevented.

A marked improvement in the quality of the animals slaughtered is one of the outstanding features of the return to private slaughtering. A definite decline in the amount of tuberculosis found in carcasses is one pleasing feature of this improved quality.

The following animals were slaughtered during the year :

Cattle 1701; Cows 191; Calves 25; Sheep and Lambs 4,740;
Pigs 1,222; making a total of 7,879, all of which were inspected.

The results of inspections are contained in the following tables :

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle ex. Cows.	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed	1701	191	25	4740	1222
Number inspected	1701	191	25	4740	1222
All diseases except T.B.					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	-	-	3	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	168	31	-	58	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than T.B.	9.93	16.23	-	1.28	0.16
T.B. only					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	3	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	38	30	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with T.B.	2.29	7.27	-	-	-

WEIGHT CONDEMNED (in lbs)

	Other Diseases			T.B.		
	Carcasses	Organs	Parts	Carcasses	Organs	Parts
Cattle						
ex. Cows	660	1785	121	490	30	122
Cows	-	720	583	1384	305	305
Calves	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sheep	143	398	51	-	-	-
Pigs	18	-	5	-	-	-
	821	2903	760	1874	335	425

Total weight condemned... 3 tons 3 cwts 4 sts 6 lb.

FOOD and DRUGS.

Clean Food Campaign.

There were 213 food premises in the area being :-

General Dealers.....	79
Fish Shops.....	29
Grocery & Provisions.....	32
Butchers.....	26
Confectioners.....	14
Chemists.....	10
Bakehouses.....	11
Greengrocers.....	8
Ice Cream Shops.....	4

There are four dairies, the Houghton Dairymen's Association, A.E. Smith, F. Tindale, and B. English, and the number of premises registered for the sale of Ice Cream is 81, being :-

General Dealers.....	57
Grocery and Provisions.....	7
Ice Cream Shops.....	4
Confectioners.....	3
Cinemas.....	5
Baker & Confectioner.....	1
Greengrocers.....	2
Ice Cream Manufacturer.....	1
Colliery Canteen.....	1

Routine inspection and supervision of all food shops and food preparation premises have been carried out. The standard of hygiene in general is good but there is room for improvement in some of the premises and these are receiving attention. Occupiers are only too willing to co-operate with the Department to achieve the standard we desire.

As I stated previously the housewife could do much to enforce good hygiene by refusing to buy from unhygienic shop premises.

Unsound Food

Condemned meat and offal is disposed of for the manufacture of fats, fertilisers and animal feeding stuffs, or if it is unsuitable for such purpose it is destroyed.

Meat and other foods from retail premises are surrendered to the Health Department and is crushed or destroyed and disposed of on the Council's tip.

tins

43 Jiffi Jellies, 239 tins fruit, 195 tomatoes, 9 tins evaporated milk, 10 tins soup, 184 tins meat, 56 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb pork sausage, 180 $\frac{1}{4}$ lb beef sausage, 10 lb tongue, 15 lb uncooked ham, 8 tins fish, 66 tins milk, 103 tins vegetables, 20 lb cooked gammon, 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb cooked shoulder, 12 fish cakes, 43 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb sliced meat, 1 jar pickles, 108 lb jam, 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ lb split peas, 1 dozen packets shredded wheat, 27 lb cream, 3 packets ground rice, 3 packets cat food, 3 tins peas, 1 jar chicken fillets, 1 tin chicken fillets, 1 tin chicken, 8 tins salmon, 2 lb cheese, 5 tins baked beans, 3 bottles sauce, 42 tins cream.

Bakehouses

Large bakeries where loaves are produced in thousands have practically cut out the small local baker but there are still a small number of small high class bakers in the district who produce bread and flour confectionery under good conditions. These premises are regularly inspected and found satisfactory.

Ice Cream

During the year 3. samples were submitted for bacteriological examination and were satisfactory. Much of the ice cream consumed is imported (pre-packed) into the district and sold by small retail shops. It is the practice to insist on an electric refrigerator for storage in these cases and to ensure that the premises and personnel are clean.

Fried Fish Shops

The standard of cleanliness is well maintained and many establishments are equipped with all-electric ranges and have been installed with alternative coal heating. Other ranges in the district are heated by coal and gas. In most cases the assistants serving in these establishments are provided with white overalls and caps; a condition which we have sought to have included in the regulations.

Shops

The standard of hygiene and cleanliness throughout the area is satisfactory.

Canteens

Colliery, Factory and School canteens in which food is prepared were visited during the year, and a good standard of cleanliness is maintained.

F A C T O R I E S

The following are the principal places within your district :

1. Philadelphia Engine Works and Repairing Shops.
2. Philadelphia Joinery Works.
3. N.E.S.Co. Electrical Power Sub-Station.
4. Sunderland and District Omnibus Co.
5. Co-operative Stores and Workshops.
6. Gas Works.
7. Joinery Works.
8. Boring Tool Works.
9. Printing Works.
10. Builders Merchants.
11. Candle Making.
12. Bakeries.
13. Sugar Confectioners.
14. Clothing Factories.
15. Iron Foundry.
16. Motor Repair Shops.
17. Boot Repair Shops.
18. Cement Blocks.
19. Building Works.
20. Packing Cases.
21. Travelling Cases.
22. Electrical Accessories.
23. Woodwork Machinery.
24. Milk Pasteurization.
25. Pickles.
26. Light Engineering Works.
27. Furriers.

During the year these have been inspected and any nuisances or defects found were remedied without the necessity for formal action.

1. Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to Health
(including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.)

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		Occupiers Prosecuted
		Inspections	Written Notices	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be en- forced by Local Authorities	91	101	-	-
(ii) Factories not in- cluded in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	-	-	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out- workers' premises)	4	4	-	-
Total	95	105	-	-

2. Defects found

	Number of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S1)	4	4	-	-
Overcrowding (S2)	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature (S3)	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S4)	1	1	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S6)	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S7)	-	-	-	-
Insufficient Unsuitable or defective	3	3	-	-
Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-
Other offences (not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-
Total	8	8	-	-

